



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Building Identification and Wayfinding Signs</b> Various Locations Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7680  <b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 00.00(38.00)44161
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States General Services Administration	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Final approval of site development plans  <b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Federal Project in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

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The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted site development plans for the installation of 28 building and wayfinding signs at ten federal buildings in Washington, DC. The buildings include the following: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Wilbur J. Cohen Building, E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse, Bryant Annex, Winder Building, Lafayette Building, Robert C. Weaver Building, Veterans Affairs Building, Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Federal Building, and the J. Edgar Hoover Building. The proposed signs conform to the design approved by the Commission in September 2011 for use at federal buildings in the Federal Triangle. As funds allow, GSA is replacing existing older signs at federal properties and adding new signage as necessary. Twelve of the 28 signs will replace existing signs and the remaining 16 signs will be new installations.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Building currently has one corner sign at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW and no signs at its other three corners. GSA will install four new signs, one at each corner, with three new signs at the northeast corner on Independence Avenue, SW, the southeast corner on 2<sup>nd</sup> and C Streets, SW, and the southwest corner on C and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, SW.

GSA will replace two existing signs at the Wilbur J. Cohen Federal Building, and it will install two new signs at the southeast and southwest corners of the building along C Street, SW. The Commission approved site improvements at the Cohen Building in 2011, and the existing building identification signs were removed as part of the improvement project. GSA will install four building identification signs at each corner of the site.

The E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse has one entrance sign on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. GSA will replace the existing sign and install a new sign at the northwest corner of C Street, NW. The Bryant Annex is adjacent to Prettyman Courthouse, and GSA will install two new signs at corner locations along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW – one on Pennsylvania Avenue and the other on C Street, NW. The signs will be mounted on granite plinths on the sidewalk, which is GSA property, and will be placed inside security bollards and outside of the pedestrian route.

The Winder Building currently has one bronze sign at the building entrance on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. GSA will maintain the existing sign and add three new signs to the other corners of the building, with two signs located along 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW and one sign on F Street, NW.

The Lafayette Building is currently undergoing site and physical perimeter security improvements. GSA will install three new signs in locations on the north and south side of the building along Vermont Avenue, NW and along I Street, NW.

The Robert C. Weaver Federal Building currently has no freestanding identification signs. GSA will install two new signs at the corners of the building along D Street and E Street, SW. These signs will be sited in a way that will not block views of the original letter signs on the façade of the building.

There are two existing signs at the Veterans Affairs Building. One sign is located in a niche on the northeast side of the building and the other is a freestanding sign on the southeast corner of the building. GSA will replace both of these signs.

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building has four existing building identification signs. GSA will replace all four signs. The two signs along C Street, SW will be replaced immediately, while the two signs along Maryland Avenue, SW will be fabricated and stored until GSA can coordinate with NPS and the Eisenhower Memorial Foundation on appropriate locations for these two signs in consideration of the proposed memorial.

There are two existing signs at the J. Edgar Hoover Building. One sign is located on the southeast side of the building, along 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, and the other sign is located on the southwest corner, along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. GSA will replace both of these freestanding signs in the identical corner locations.

Pursuant to its regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), GSA submitted a categorical exclusion determination. The project qualifies as an automatic categorical exclusion that applies to the repair or replacement of equipment or components in GSA-controlled facilities without change in location, e.g. HVAC, electrical distribution systems, windows, doors or roof where there is no evidence of unresolved environmental issues. As this is a federal project in the District of Columbia, NCPC has an independent NEPA responsibility for approval of the project. Staff has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion pursuant to NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines. The specific categorical exclusion that applies is located within Section 8(c)(2) of NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines, which covers the repair, replacement and routine installation of building components and site elements. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present.

Pursuant to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), GSA submitted a "no adverse effect" determination for the project and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this finding. As this is a federal project located in the District of Columbia, NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with NHPA. NCPC staff concurs

with the no adverse effect determination and has elected to designate GSA as lead agency pursuant to the Section 106 regulations (36 CFR 800.2(a)(2)).

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposed preliminary and final site development plans on May 20, 2015, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies are: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT); the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The representative for DDOT noted that the signage proposal has locations that may be in public space requiring public space permits from DDOT.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the installation of 28 new building and wayfinding signs at various locations in Washington, DC.

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

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[Date]